

FOR THE LOVE OF JELL-O P. 14 **EMS STADIUM ON THE BALLOT P. 5**

MARCH 21, 2024 | VOL. 43 | NO. 7 | **FREE EVERY THURSDAY!**

EUGENE WEEKLY


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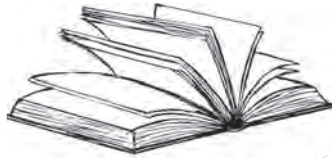
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letters

LIBRARY OVER BASEBALL STADIUM

I visit the Eugene Public Library on a weekly basis. On my last visit, there was a young girl walking from the library with her family, carrying a stack of books taller than her. I asked why she alone was carrying all the books, and she proudly exclaimed with a bright smile, "Because they are all for me!" Joy of books, what could be better?

However, currently our public library is under siege by the Eugene City Council, which has cut the library budget considerably. It has had to curtail new purchases and has cut staff. The library serves so many purposes, providing not only books but movies, audio books, meeting spaces, a teen center, children's programs, various equipment, wifi "hot spots," art, internet access, creative events and online services, etc. It provides equal opportunities with no charge for all of our city's diverse citizens.

So why are we losing library services while the City Council asks us to vote for a bond measure for a baseball stadium which will charge us just to enter it? I will not ever consider voting yes on a stadium bond measure until the city provides adequate funding for our public library. The library provides an educated citizenry which is sorely needed.

Tricia Hedin
Eugene

WARNES FOR WARD 2

Matt Keating is running for re-election in Ward 2, my home for 40 years. I have sent letters and emails with concerns and questions on Ward 2 and general city related issues. I have never received any reply. This is a departure from past councilors, especially Betty Taylor. Lisa Warnes is running for this position and has an endorsement from Taylor. I hope others in Ward 2 will join me in supporting Warnes. We need someone like Taylor again.

Don French
Eugene

ANSWER THE DAMN QUESTION

I watched the March 15 City Club meeting for the Eugene mayor candidates. As usual, I was disappointed with the softball questions and vague responses.

The only specific question that was asked was about the proposed baseball stadium bond issue that the City Council has put on the May ballot. None of the three candidates gave a clear answer. Shanaé Joyce-Stringer and Stefan Strek were skeptical but didn't take a clear firm stand. Kaarin Knudson simply didn't answer the question, even when asked again in a follow-up question.

I wish the question had been, "If you were mayor and had to break a tie vote when the City Council decided to put the baseball stadium on the May ballot,

how would you have voted, yes or no?"

What I've learned from my few chances to ask questions of our leaders or candidates is that you have to be short and very specific in your question, and even then you may not get an answer. Candidates often avoid specifics and see a question as an opportunity to make a speech, instead of ANSWERING THE DAMN QUESTION.

I don't see Strek as a mayor. I would vote for either Knudson or Joyce-Stringer, but I could not tell you what either will do as mayor. And that's usually the case when people run for local government offices. Once elected they do as they please, and we're stuck with them for four years.

Lynn Porter
Eugene

'WE' HAVE QUESTIONS

We (as in the royal "we") appreciate the *Weekly* being a watchdog over all the public entities over the years. But we do wonder what the heck happened to all that money disappearing from your own bank accounts and who is responsible for it.

Understandably, we know you can't talk about an investigation in process, but a mention every week would go a long way to ensuring our trust in the paper.

Thank you for reporting on this. We hope the person(s) who seemingly stole several hundred thousands of dollars from the paper is justly tried and reported on.

Merrie M (Kim) Kelly
Eugene

Editor's Note: Indeed, it's hard to report on an open investigation — and hard on us as a paper to not report on an important topic that doesn't get enough attention, like embezzlement. We will be publishing an update in an upcoming issue.

A VOTE FOR NEW EMS STADIUM

My favorite movie of all time is *Field of Dreams*. I'm not even a baseball fanatic! At the end of the movie all the improbabilities materialize. Kevin Costner gets to interact with his father, the ghosts get a field, Costner's field and the players are finally visible to his brother-in-law, Costner's farm is saved, the writer finds a topic, Costner's daughter is saved from choking to death. People by the thousands are coming to the field. It's a wonderful conclusion.

I'll always be amazed and awestruck at the way a grassroots campaign saved Civic Stadium against overwhelming odds. The improbability of saving the stadium was in doubt for seven years. It was a wonderful outcome. Maybe it's the fact that baseball brings people together whether Republican, Democrat, Independent, Mormon, Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Caucasian, Colored, Latino, Asian, Boy-scouts, Girl Scouts, cheerleaders, athletes, handicapped and all the others, no matter what their lifestyle. The

Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES
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Across

1. Jestling sort
4. China, long ago (as seen in an airline name)
10. "Blueberries for ___" (award-winning kids' book)
13. Chicken ___ king
14. Max for tax calculation
15. Bird that's not native to Tasmania
16. Radio personality who's good at archery?
18. With "The," 1970s musical Oz remake
19. Scorched
20. Notable time period
21. Bionicles maker
22. "Return of the Jedi" princess
23. Actor who's good at pressing clothes?
26. July in Marseille
27. Pilot-licensing org.
28. Show grief
29. Cardinals' cap initials
30. ___ nous (confidentially)
33. Ceremony performed by a mohel
36. Actress/TV host who's good at economics?
39. "SNL" alum Horatio
40. Search site with an exclamation point
41. N, S, E, or W
43. Talk trash about
45. Write-___ (some nominees)
46. Number of three-letter chemical elements
47. Blues rocker who's good at hauling stuff?
52. Prefix for drama
53. "Roots" author Haley
54. "Anchorman" anchorman Burgundy
55. Colts' fathers
56. Big wheel
57. Rapper/actor who's good at holding together documents?
60. Vow words
61. Curse-inducing stare
62. Graceful shade tree
63. ___ Moines, Iowa
64. Picks up for another year
65. "The Waste Land" author's monogram

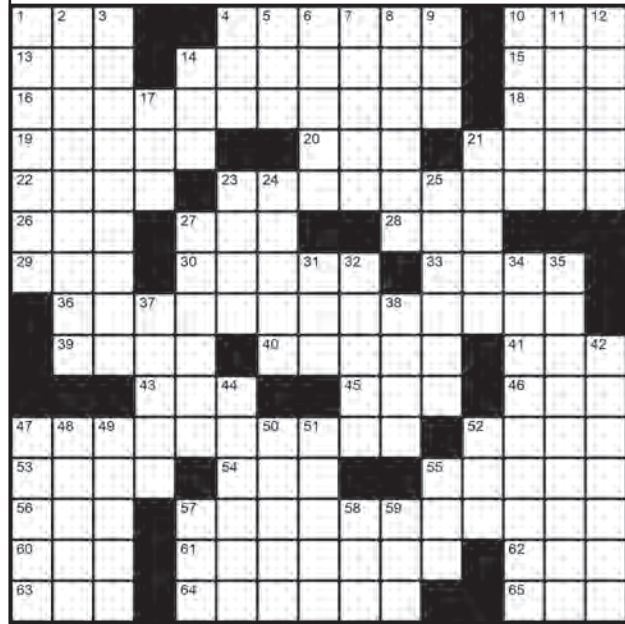
Down

1. Sings like a bird
2. Montreal CFLers
3. English actress Wilde of "Carrie" and "Wonder Woman 1984"
4. ___ au vin (French dish)
5. Kwik-E-Mart owner
6. Director Lars von ___
7. Le ___ (French seaport)

"One, Please"

—no room for any more.

8. Starting lineups
9. The Beatles' "___ Blues"
10. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" setting
11. Fernando's friend
12. Largest island of the Philippines
14. It's a blast
17. ___ minute
21. Scales of the zodiac
23. 1998 Wimbledon champ Novotna
24. Food package date, informally
25. Yokels, in Australian slang
27. Andre the Giant's role in "The Princess Bride"
31. Irish actor Stephen
32. Body of morals
34. Companion that's great for apartments (and won't run off)
35. They're found in the epidermis
37. Alphabetical listing
38. Sound the horn
42. Phrase on tote bags and plastic containers
44. Try hard
47. Michelangelo masterpiece
48. Bypass a vowel
49. Auctioned autos, often
50. "Rise of the ___" (PlayStation game coming out on March 22)
51. Mom's brother
52. ___ de los Muertos
55. ___-Therese, Quebec
57. To see, in Tijuana
58. "That's disgusting"
59. Pt. of CBS



ANSWERS TO LAST PUZZLE
RAMP ADOPT ASOP
CIRLE LEVAR RENO
FETTUCCINE FEITA
SEAS DIBS JAM
LETTUCEWRAPS
MRS DRAC KAHN
NATS ESTD REEDS
THEIDES OFMARCH
OMEGA ETNA SULU
RUTS REUP NIT
SECRET TUNNEL
ALL DOHS EACH
LIEU PETTURTLES
ETAS OSMAN HOPI
SEER NEEDS STAR

Emeralds, folks, do more than just play baseball.

I don't understand the mystique, but it's there. Good things just happen. All I know is that the baseball field will be built. I hope I'm the one who gets to throw out the first pitch at our new field.

Joe R. Blakely
Eugene

BRING BACK LEADERS FROM THE PAST

Like many in the community, I can recall a time when it seemed like there were leaders we could go to and trust.

Three people stand out. The first was Margaret Nichols, a 4J superintendent whose tenure was cut short during the middle of her life due to cancer. It was such a loss, and I wonder what her thoughts would be on the state of education these days had she survived.

The second person who stood out for me was Fern Ridge's school superintendent, Pat Burke, who led a difficult transition after Measure 5 — the approval of a 1990 property tax limitation instrument that attempted to keep the increasing costs associated with the state's growing economy and rising population in alignment. Unfortunately, it wasn't the answer but slowed the effects.

The third person who has stood out as a top figurehead in the environmental community is former Lane County's South Eugene commissioner, Jerry Rust, who was the longest serving commissioner of 20 years, until his successor, Pete Sorenson, surpassed that record.

Should any reader who wasn't around during Eugene's golden era be interested in knowing more about these important influencers who made a difference, Google their names (although, Burke generally wasn't noticed by the local media and harder to find. *The West Lane News* provided coverage up until its closure in the early 2000s.)

Still, all three are noteworthy and merit being on a future Lane County-Eugene Hall of Fame.

David Wilde
Portland

SOCIALISM WILL SOLVE THE WAR IN EUGENE

There was recent talk in *Eugene Weekly* of the percentage of homeless people being on drugs, and another letter supporting the legalization of drugs to help people here with their PTSD.

What PTSD, I wonder. Try living in Ukraine, then you can talk about having PTSD. Is there a war going on here I haven't heard about?

I know the war that is going on here. It's the war Karl Marx was talking about, the war of the rich against the poor.

Let's face it, USA, more brain damage is not going to solve that war, only socialism will.

Of course, here we have the famous blue-shirts that came in and stole the country by means of gunpowder (there was no PTSD among the Native Americans), erecting their brutal dictatorship of capital and jails. Yes, that causes a lot of PTSD. Unless the United States falls in step with the rest of the world regard-

ing increased equalization of income, I see no solution.

Lioba Multer
Florence

ENABLING GENOCIDE

Director Jonathan Glazer, in his acceptance speech as he won an Oscar for *The Zone of Interest* — a film about the family of Auschwitz’s Nazi commandant who live peacefully inside a walled garden, cut off from the horrors just the other side — said that the film’s point is not simply to say, “Look what they did then.” Rather, “Look what we do now.”

For while the Nazis had the good manners to be deeply ashamed of the horrific acts they were perpetrating, and strove mightily to conceal them, the political and military leadership of the apartheid state

of Israel have publicly declared — and are daily conducting for all the world to see — genocide against the Palestinians.

So we in the U.S. are now living in a Zone of Interest. To the degree that as individuals we are aware of, but fail to actively resist the ongoing genocide, we are in fact enabling it.

Trisha Driscoll
Veterans For Peace
Eugene

EXPANDING THE WOKE LEXICON

Democrats continue to expand the woke lexicon.

According to their latest addition, if you’re in the country illegally, been deported and have returned multiple times, have been arrested and released

multiple times and have brutally murdered a young woman or raped a 12 year-old girl, you’re not an “illegal alien” or “illegal immigrant.”

As President Joe Biden discovered, you can no longer use such terms for these monsters, even though they’re accurate, without the left going ballistic.

Now, according to the woke word-book, you’re a “newcomer.”

The Democrats in the Oregon Legislature were quick to adopt the change and incorporated it in Senate Bill 4159, which included their latest attempt to support illegal immigration (oops! “newcomers”). SB 4159 would have provided housing and rent subsidies for “newcomers” regardless of citizenship status. Thankfully the bill didn’t make it through the 2024 session, but given its

high priority among Democrats, it will almost certainly be back in 2025.

“Newcomers” is right up there with “birthing people” (formerly “mothers”), “bropropriate,” “cultural appropriation,” “microaggression,” “non-binary” and a host of other terms to know if you want to remain in good graces among the woke. Pretty soon we’ll need to rewrite the dictionary!

Jerry Ritter
Springfield

Editor’s note: Merriam-Webster says, “microaggression, noun, mi-cro-ag-gres-sion: a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group (such as a racial minority).” Seems like a pretty good word to know!

Local and Vocal

VIEWPOINT BY BILLIE BEST

Housing is a Rigged Competition

GETTING A PLACE TO LIVE SEEMS LIMITED TO THE WELL-RESOURCED AND THE DIGITALLY LITERATE

Right before Christmas, my partner and I received a termination notice from our landlord. I lurched in shock, and then I got online to look for a new place. After a couple days of intense scrolling we found a modest dog-friendly rental in town that seemed perfect, so we hustled.

On Christmas Day, I sent a letter by email to the property management agency describing us as “two adults near 70 with a three-year-old medium size poodle, prepared to sign a 12 month lease, including pet rent and security deposit.”

I expected ageism to play in our favor, thought we would be treated like the ideal tenant, but I was wrong.

The response we got from the property manager was a link to an app where adults over 18 must pay \$45 each to register for individual credit and criminal investigations. That’s a nonrefundable \$90 just to be considered. This we discovered is quite common. I guess it filters out the riff raff. Elitist, but effective.

I’m good with apps and we were willing to lose the money, so we jumped on their merry-go-round. But I wondered what a more economically challenged household would do if they had to pay \$45 per adult just to apply to be considered for a new place?

My partner has been the resident caretaker of an estate where he lived for 19 years and where I lived for three. He has worked at the same business in town since 1995. But that meant nothing to our prospective landlord. We were treated like potential criminals until we signed the lease.

The tenant portal required digital literacy. We had to have credit cards, smart phones, email accounts, personal computers, internet access and navigation skills, dexterity with password management, double authentication, downloading and uploading, taking photographs and sending attachments. This is also an economic filter as the underlying infrastructure for these skills costs thousands of dollars a year.

Now I should say that I was a landlord in Boston from 1987 to 2000, and I appreciate the myriad ways tenants can grift a landlord. We lived in a three-family house with two tenants, and it was a lot of work to keep the place occupied and in good repair. It’s reasonable for landlords to want to protect themselves.

But during all that time, I interviewed prospective tenants face-to-face, took them at their word, and trusted my instincts, never asking for proof of anything. We had many tenants, and I was only wrong once — if you don’t count the college students

who painted their bedrooms black. Anyway, I appreciate the intention of the digital application process to protect the landlord and the neighbors.

After we paid the \$90, and before we met a human, each of us had 48 hours to produce digital records for government issued photo IDs, Social Security numbers, three months of bank statements showing deposits and withdrawals, and paycheck stubs showing salary, taxes, sick days and vacation days. Then we were finally allowed to inspect the place.

Afterward, we were required to set up accounts for utilities at the new address, even though we had not signed a lease. For our new electric, water/sewer, trash removal and renter insurance we had to produce confirmation emails showing our new account number and address. Finally, we had to produce medical records for our dog with the contact information for his veterinarian, and his breed, weight, neuter certificate and rabies tag. Gathering all these documents and submitting them electronically took me six hours. Fortunately, I’m self-employed.

As expected, we had to provide landlord references for the previous three years. When my Portland landlord from 2018-2020 did not respond to the property agent’s queries about me, the property agent asked to inspect our current home, which we agreed to. She came to our house and looked in every room to confirm that what we said about ourselves was true. Good for her. But you see how difficult it might be to deal with this for somebody who works far from home or is struggling with their life.

Once all that paperwork was accepted, we were sent a link to the digital lease document, which included a detailed fixed-term 52-week lease, a smoke detector addendum, a mold addendum, a landscaping addendum, a pet addendum, a portable cooling device addendum, a relocation addendum, a move-in checklist addendum, a new tenant handout, a tenant education form, a satellite dish policy addendum, and a summary document, all to be digitally initialed before we gave them our electronic signatures and they gave us little brass keys. This was as complicated as getting a mortgage.

Our new lease started Dec. 30, a week after we got the termination notice. Now we’re in, we’re settled, and things are good. Yet, the process of re-homing ourselves raises some important issues as we ponder the problem of affordable housing, homelessness and upward mobility. Housing is a digital competition. We played the game and won. Those without the skills and resources need not apply. We are the lucky ones.

Billie Best is a writer living in Eugene. A longer version is at BillieBest.com.

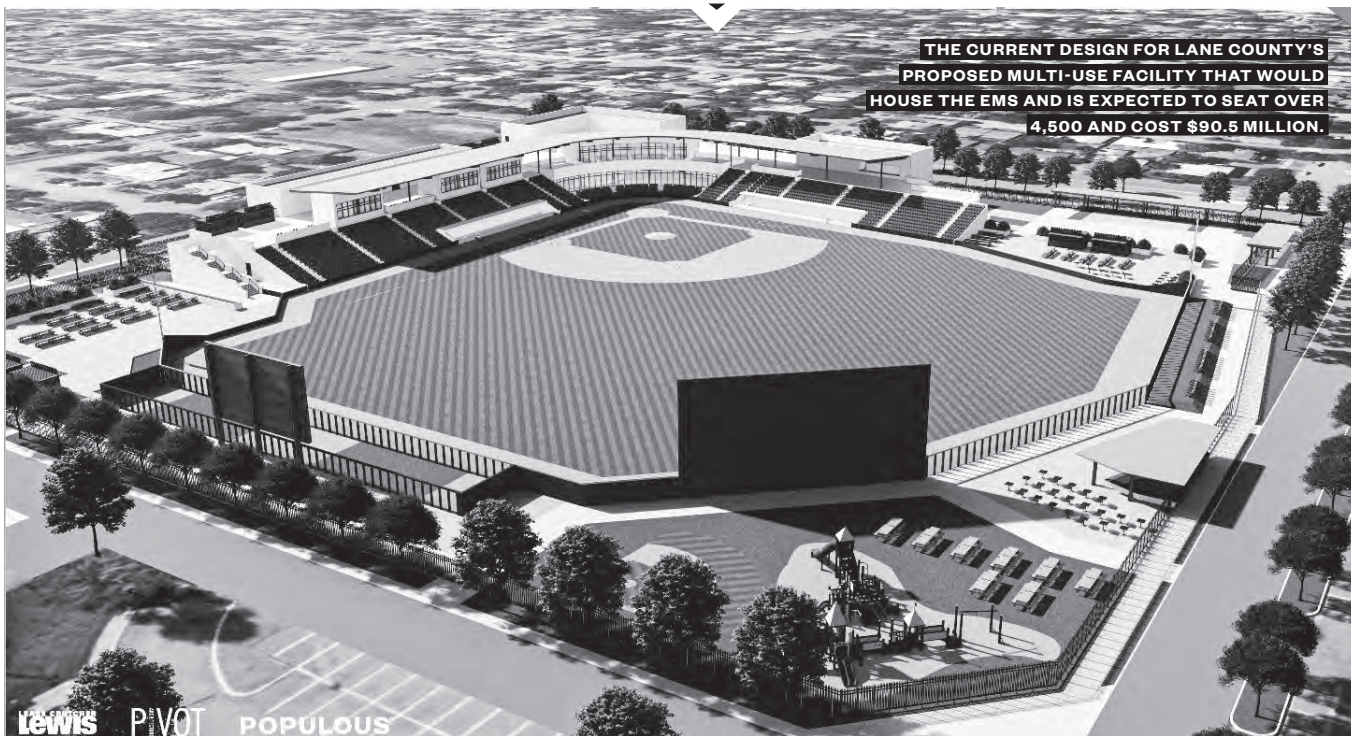


Image provided by Allan Benavides

What's the Rush?

A series of MLB requirements and a tighter schedule are big drivers for the Ems' call for a new stadium.

In 2020, the Emeralds were invited to become a High-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Since then, the number of games in their season almost doubled to 132 from late April to early August. The Emeralds rescheduled six home games last summer to out-of-town stadiums because PK Park was hosting the Ducks super regional games.

MLB regulations require stadiums to have locker rooms for home and away teams, and ones that accommodate women athletes, plus an additional locker room for coaches. PK Park's single locker room will no longer cut it.

When the Ducks baseball team is playing in their stadium, the Emeralds get pushed out. "For a third of our season, our team isn't in a locker room," Benavides says. "For a third of the season, the visiting team is in trailers."

The Ems Are Pitching a Stadium

THE MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM SEEKS MILLIONS IN PUBLIC MONEY TO CONSTRUCT A NEW BASEBALL STADIUM AT THE LANE EVENTS CENTER. EUGENE'S PORTION IS ON THE BALLOT IN MAY.

By Bentley Freeman

The Eugene Emeralds, the city's minor league baseball team for the past 70 years, says it's going to leave town if it doesn't secure funding for a new stadium by June 1.

And the team wants taxpayers — in Eugene, Lane County and across Oregon — to pick up virtually all of the \$90.5 million cost.

In May, Eugene voters will decide if they will tax themselves to give the team what it wants, or if the Ems' ultimatum is too expensive for the promised rewards of keeping the team here.

The Ems currently play in the University of Oregon's PK Park, their home field since 2010, after leaving historic Civic Stadium, where they had played since 1969. But the team is being squeezed out of PK Park, both because

of the team's busier schedule and requirements from Major League Baseball (the Ems are an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants) that call for stadiums to have more features than PK Park now offers.

Since 2021, the Ems have put on a major PR campaign for a new stadium, telling their fans and city officials that the team needs an answer about a new stadium by June 1, or they need to start looking for a new home city.

Eugene Ems General Manager Allan Benavides desperately wants to keep the Emeralds in Eugene. "The Ems have been in Eugene longer than the Giants in San Francisco," he says. "Our goal is to stay here."

The proposal for the 4,500-seat multi-use stadium is complicated and is still missing key details. We've offered answers to some of the basic questions that face the Ems, local elected officials, and voters.

Who's Paying For It?

The plan cobbles together funding from a wide range of public sources — while only a small part of the investment comes from the Ems and their Chicago-based owner, Elmore Sports Group.

The stadium will be owned by the county on the current site of the Lane Events Center, aka the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds' Livestock Arena will be razed to make room for it.

Final construction costs may very well exceed the \$100 million projection made in March 2023. Lane County Operations Director Lorren Blythe says the \$90.5 million estimate may be out of date. The "reliability of the estimate is unknown due to the amount of time that has passed since the estimate was initially provided," Blythe said in a March 12 meeting.

So what accounts for the cost?

The land itself, to start with. Blythe says the county land represents \$9 million of the cost. And that's the first investment the public will make — donating the land.

State lawmakers have approved \$15 million. State Sen. James Manning, a Eugene Democrat, has been a major booster and says it's important for local officials to know that the state has what he calls "skin in the game." The state money will be delivered only if local officials and Eugene voters approve the plan.

"This is a once in a generation project," Manning says.

The Ems secured \$1.5 million from the Federal Immediate Occupancy program in exchange for the stadium's use as an emergency shelter when needed. (The stadium will keep emergency supplies and shelters on hand for use in the stadium at a moment's notice.) The Ems' Bena-

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vides says the team expects to raise another \$10 million through parking fees, advertising and naming rights and sponsorships. But right now, Benavides says, “It’s hard to sell naming rights to a stadium that doesn’t exist.”

The Ems’ only direct investment: \$10 million in prepaid rent for a 20-year lease.

In 2022, Lane County increased its transient lodging tax (TLT) and car rental taxes from 9.5 percent to 11.5 percent. (The rates are 12 percent in unincorporated parts of the county.) The proposed amount of \$35 million will have to be paid back into the fund by taking 1.5 percent of all TLT annually for 20 years.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has yet to allocate any funds from the increase. Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky plans to have a final

operational agreement ready to be presented to the Board of Commissioners before the May ballot. Only then will it be decided if the commissioners keep the Lane Events Center location and TLT funding on the table.

The Eugene City Council has approved a measure that will authorize a \$15 million general obligation bond to help pay for the stadium. Property taxpayers in the city — and not revenue from the stadium — will cover the debt.

The measure would authorize an additional 0.08 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For a home valued at \$300,000, that’s an additional \$24 a year.

Emblazoned in his Ems gear, Eugene City Councilor Matt Keating is confident that putting forth the bond measure vote to his constituents was the right decision. He says this will give Eugene voters a choice to say, “Yes,

we believe in a project that benefits this community.”

Eugene City Councilor Jennifer Yeh was the lone vote in opposition to the plan in February. She says that it is the city’s responsibility to send bond measures to the voters only when a project, like the construction of a minor-league baseball stadium, is fully planned out with all other funding determined.

“Voters should be able to rely on their city council to, at a minimum, determine if a project or plan is viable before they send a bond measure for consideration,” Yeh writes in an email to *Eugene Weekly*. “We can’t tell voters how this project will be paid for, how it will be maintained or if it will even happen, yet we are asking for their money.”

For more information from opponents to the stadium, check out 100MillionDollarStadium.com. The Ems are pitching the stadium at SaveOurEms.com.

slant

• **What we’re reading:** Kwame Alexander’s *This Is the Honey: An anthology of contemporary Black poets*. It’s a read that takes you to another world, as all good poetry will do.

• **This week is our annual gardening issue** — and we noticed that downtown grocery Kiva says Double Up Food Bucks can be used to purchase produce starts! Any other places making it easier for folks to grow healthy food? Let us know at Editor@EugeneWeekly.com.

• **Just when we were pondering if it was time to do a dog story,** *The New*

York Times, Sunday March 17, beat us to it with “How exactly did dogs take over the world?” We have two big office dogs at the *Weekly*. Go to the beauty shop and a little dog greets you. Go to the barber shop and a little dog greets you. It would be better to have dogs running the world than some candidates we can think of. With the May primary election on the horizon, it’s time for us to start interviewing candidates for endorsements. We will see what the dogs think.

• **After many weeks of hoping that the Duck men basketballers would be invited to the NCAA tournament,** the Ducks did not wait for an invitation. They knocked down the front door by winning the Pac-12 tournament. They had to come from behind

three nights in a row in the most impressive and entertaining stretch of Duck basketball in years. As the No. 11 seed in the South Region, Oregon’s first tournament game is March 21 against No. 6 seed South Carolina, and from here on out it is win or go home.

• **News we are following:** *Anonymous Student News* and the *Daily Emerald* recently covered the protest over the University of Oregon student government’s decision to schedule its spring concert on the same day as the Native American Student Union’s annual Mother’s Day Powwow for the second year in a row. ASUO said on its Instagram it is working to cancel the concert. The UO’s annual powwow is May 10 and 11, and Lane Community College’s is April 6.

• **The largest pickleball facility in the Pacific Northwest is aiming to break ground** in May 2025 and finish construction by that fall. This future location is at Lane Community College. Seems like the biggest complaint we hear about the sport is the sound of the balls and the loss of tennis courts — is the new facility the solution?

• **A panel of the three Eugene mayoral candidates spoke at the City Club of Eugene meeting** March 15: Kaarin Knudson, Shanaé Joyce Stringer and perennial candidate Stefan Streck. We were impressed by Knudson’s report that she has knocked on 500 doors as of last Thursday. City Club will meet at noon on Friday in the Maple Room at Inn at the Fifth to discuss STAR Voting, which will also appear on the May ballot.

It Must Be the Climate

←350EUGENE.ORG

On Monday, March 11, the University of Oregon again failed to live up to our community values and the values they publicly espouse by delaying a critical decision to reduce their climate pollution. **Instead, the Board of Trustees punted a crucial vote about the future of UO’s polluting gas boilers indefinitely, despite years of sustained community pressure.**

The University of Oregon has long advertised itself as an environmental leader, attracting students and faculty from around the world with its socially conscious branding. Yet UO fails to include in its glossy advertisements the huge impact that the school continues to have on our environment and climate. **The University is the single largest source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in our community, according to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) data¹.** These emissions drive the climate crisis and are at odds with the climate commitments made by the University and the City of Eugene.

Student groups at the UO have worked for nearly a decade to pressure the school to address its emissions by electrifying the school’s boiler system which generates about 20,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually and makes up over 80% of the University’s total emissions. Since 2016, students have been writing letters, providing testimony, and organizing protests to push the Board of Trustees to uphold the values touted by the institution and address the significant emissions associated with these outdated gas boilers.

Two years ago, it seemed that pressure was working. The University formed a “Thermal Task Force” to study alternatives to the boiler system and provide a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in light of the University’s climate commitments. The Task Force, made up of students, faculty, and administrators, laid out four options (outlined in a previous column titled “UO Reliance on Methane Reaches a Boiling Point”).

UO Trustees “DUCK” DECISION to CLEAN UP Polluting GAS BOILERS

Throughout this process, the university failed to communicate opportunities for involvement or describe the importance of reductions to students or community members. **The Thermal Task Force provided only abbreviated summaries of outdated information. This left the community uncertain about how the options were picked, why other options were not considered, if the funding numbers are accurate, or if the CO reductions will play out as promised.** Despite this, the Task Force and university leadership received strong engagement from students, community members, and elected officials urging them to recommend the option with the greatest emissions reductions and highest efficiency.

Specifically, the community coalesced in support of Option 4, which would transition the boilers to high efficiency heat pump technology, reducing emissions by close to 80%, while dramatically increasing energy efficiency and creating good union jobs. Option 4 was also supported by a UO student government (ASUO) resolution, a Memo² from the City of Eugene Sustainability Commission and a Letter³ signed by over thirty organizations, unions, and local elected leaders including Senator James Manning and Mayor Lucy Vinis.

The Task Force, pressured by administrators to pick the lowest cost option, created a fifth alternative, Option 2B, which would transition only about half of the University’s gas use to electric, and reduce emissions by a little over 40%, which they then recommended earlier this year. While this option was far less ambitious than what students were hoping for, there was still broad support for the recommendation as a first step in the longer-term decarbonization of the University.

The University continued to duck responsibility and refused to consider a vote on the Task Force’s recommendation, further delaying the climate action our community has been demanding. To add insult to injury, the Board cited “budget uncertainty” as its reason for not moving forward with the \$15 million project, despite spending hundreds of millions of dollars on capital projects in the past few years.

The Board’s refusal to make a decision further muddies an already obscure and inaccessible public process around the Thermal Task Force, and has made it clear that the institution will prioritize its unsustainable growth over its moral obligations to the community.

With the University’s continued failure to act, it is becoming clear that **State of Oregon officials must follow the example set forth by the State of Washington and pass legislation to regulate the institution and require action to address these emissions.** It is untenable for a publicly funded University to continue to ignore popular sentiment and maintain the status quo, polluting our air, impacting our communities, and threatening our climate.

1. <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/pages/ghg-inventory.aspx>
2. <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/72604/Letter-to-inform-Council-about-UOs-pending-decision-for-transitioning-its-heating-system>
3. <https://fossilfreeeugene.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/University-of-Oregon-Thermal-Task-Force-Letter.pdf>

AUTHORS

Molly Babcock is a UO senior studying Public Relations, Environmental Studies & Nonprofit Management. She is the director of the UO Climate Justice League.

Dylan Plummer is a Senior Field Organizing Strategist with Sierra Club, working on building electrification in Oregon & Washington, and is UO alumni.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Got Carbon-Neutral Beef?

MARKET OF CHOICE IS NOW SELLING SUSTAINABLE BEEF IN STORES ACROSS OREGON

By Emerson Brady

“Carbon-neutral beef” is the kind of oxymoron that makes any environmentally conscious consumer scratch their head. But Austin Allred, owner of Washington-based Royal Ranch, says that carbon-neutral beef is not only possible, it’s the future. Royal Ranch’s beef program produces carbon with emissions from diesel tractors and the cow’s methane, but it is able to offset those emissions by creating a farm that sustains itself through carbon sequestration — harnessing carbon back into the soil — to create an ecosystem at Allred’s ranch that ends up reusing carbon.

In an effort to bring a more sustainable meat option to customers, Market of Choice announced in February that it has partnered with Royal Ranch to bring carbon-neutral beef to the tables of environmentally conscious omnivores.

Allred grew up farming in Royal City, Washington. “We go back three generations,” Allred says. “I got my kids helping on the ranch now day in and day out. They’re just learning how to do it more sustainably now.”

According to the University of California, Davis, “Cattle are the No. 1 agricultural source of greenhouse gases worldwide. Each year, a single cow will belch about 220 pounds of methane.”

Alice Morrison, co-director of Friends of Family Farmers, a nonprofit supporting small farms in Oregon, says that while carbon-neutral ranching is possible on a large scale, there are limitations. She says, “In order for a large-scale operation to do things that align with carbon neutral goals, they need to have a lot of land and ensure that they can maintain necessary carbon sequestration processes.”

Allred says regenerative agriculture could be the solution to eliminating greenhouse gases while still consuming meat. Royal Ranch practices regenerative agriculture in a few different ways.

Manure management is what Allred calls a “low-hanging fruit” in terms of sustainability practices. Royal Ranch puts manure from its cattle back into the soil. The ranch also uses recycled water to hydrate its orchard, field and dairy crops.

There are also more worms on Royal Ranch than cattle, which isn’t all that strange if you’re looking to run a carbon-neutral operation. Royal Ranch hosts what it says is the largest worm farm in the world with 15 acres of long, skinny swimming pools filled with worms and recycled wood chips. Allred says that these worms make for healthier soil and are a big part of the regenerative process because they can harvest the wood chips, compost them, and eventually put them back into the soil. Allred also uses the worms’ digestive systems to remove 99 percent of water contaminants in wastewater, which then gets reused for farming.

Regenerative agriculture isn’t cheap. Allred says, “You don’t install the largest worm farm in the world without putting up some cash.” He says that selling carbon credits — permits that companies can sell to another company that allows them to produce a set amount of carbon emissions — to big-name companies like Microsoft has helped him continue to offset the costs of installing the type of machinery.

Morrison of Friends of Family Farmers is skeptical of carbon credits because she would prefer that “people doing unsustainable things should just stop doing those things.” However, she says she understands that farming is not particularly lucrative so she doesn’t fault farmers for wanting to seek other revenues.

“I think the important piece of Royal Ranch and what they’re doing is really the scale,” says Market of Choice Senior Director of Perishable Merchandising Matt Martin. “How they’ve been able to have this impact on such a large scale.”

In addition to managing 5,000 cows, Royal Ranch’s 14,000-acre farm produces six crops: apples, cherries, potatoes, peas, sweet corn, field corn, hay and wheat.

“We feel an obligation to feed the world,” Allred says. “Or at least feed our local communities.”

To learn more about Royal Ranch’s beef program go to RoyalFamilyFarming.com/pages/ranch.

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EUGENE weekly

Gardeners, get started!

This year's planting guide gives you guidance for when to plant starts outside in the Willamette Valley from Cottage Grove to Portland. The first column gives information on when to start plants indoors before then planting outside. If you are already gardening — or eating produce — then we hope you know what a ripe vegetable looks like. But for root vegetables that hide beneath the dirt, such as potatoes and carrots, look for crowning in the soil for indication of ripe produce.

The Rest of the Year

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

COVERCROPS

As Oregon moves into fall and the harvest season wraps up, it is time to plant cover crops. Legumes like crimson clover give soil a healthy boost of nitrogen, while various grasses can add organic matter to your soil for tilling come spring.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

COMPOST/BUILD BEDS

It might be cold and wet outside, but it's still time to think of your garden.

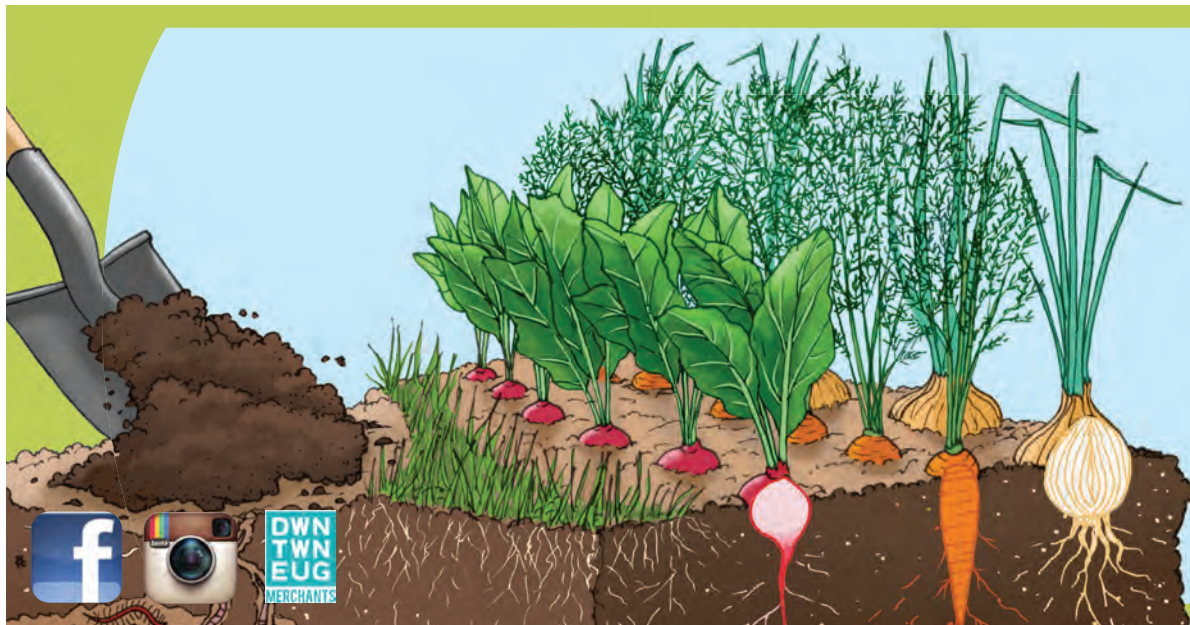
Till your cover crop into your soil, add compost, map out your coming garden and build beds. Take into account watering and drainage, note that limiting the width of your bed to 4 feet makes the center easy to reach, and think about companion planting (putting plants that benefit one another near each other) and finally, of course, sunlight.



START PLANTS INDOORS THIS
LONG BEFORE PLANTING DATE

JAN FEB MAR A

Beets	not suitable			
Broccoli	6 weeks			
Snap Beans	not suitable			
Cabbage	6 weeks			
Cannabis	8 weeks			
Carrots	not suitable			
Cauliflower	6 weeks			
Celery	9 weeks			
Chard	not suitable			
Cucumber	4 weeks			
Corn	not suitable			
Eggplant	9 weeks			
Garlic	not suitable			
Kale	not suitable			
Kohlrabi	not suitable			
Lettuce	5 weeks			
Onions	10 weeks			
Parsley	10 weeks			
Peas	not suitable			
Peppers	10 weeks			
Potatoes	not suitable			
Pumpkins	4 weeks			
Spinach	not suitable			
Tomatoes	8 weeks			
Zucchini	4 weeks			
Watermelons	4 weeks			



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Planting Guide

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The Season for Trying

New Things

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT
WHAT MIGHT GROW IN THE SHADE

By Amelia Winkelman

My first encounter with a daffodil this year ignited me with so much joy that my plant-ignorant self announced it's time I grounded myself with some light gardening. Ground as in come back down to Earth, not punish like your parents used to, but who's to say which direction this new endeavor will go?

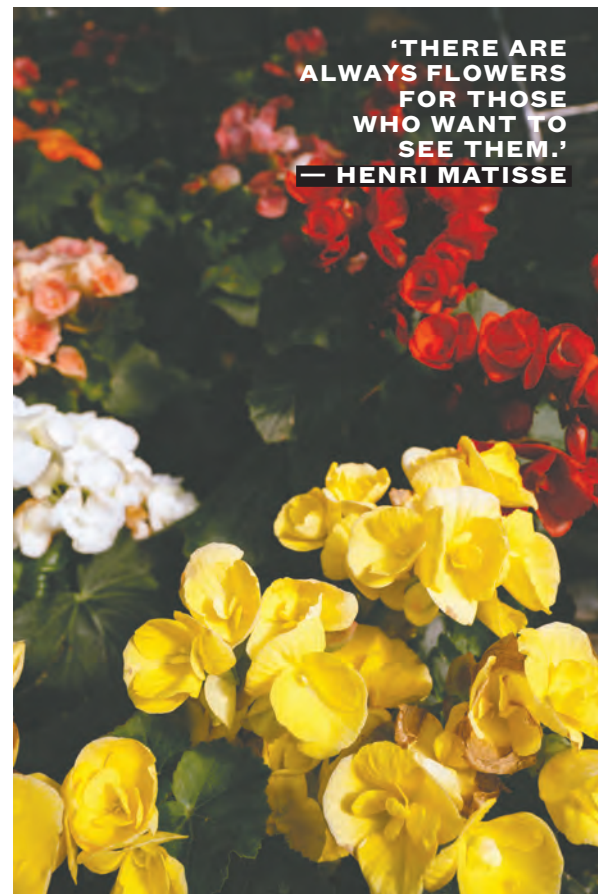
I live in an apartment with a shady balcony. I know this adds some limitations, so I talked to Lorrie Bolivar, a plant broker, to assess the shady situation. Bolivar works for a wholesale plant nursery, Nursery Net, and travels around the state looking for the perfect plants for different commercial and private landscape projects.

Bolivar says lots of plants do well in the shade, but she recommends buying perennials, plants that come back for more than one year without needing to be replanted, because they tend to have longer blooms than annual plants and require less fertilizer.

Many salvias have long bloom times, though they require sun, Bolivar says. Hostas thrive in the shade and “get a really tall, pretty and very fragrant bloom in the middle of the summer,” she says.



Photos by Todd Cooper



**'THERE ARE
ALWAYS FLOWERS
FOR THOSE
WHO WANT TO
SEE THEM.'**
— HENRI MATISSE

Salvias are perennial shrubs. Some types are evergreen, meaning they have color all year long. Hostas are leafy, easy to maintain perennials.

I visited Eugene's Down to Earth garden center to see what I was working with. In the rows of charming plants, I was not compelled by any shade-dwellers until I laid my eyes upon the ethereal bleeding heart, a perennial with pink, drooping, heart-shaped flowers.

Another perennial that can grow in the shade is mint, Bolivar says. Mojitos are beloved in my household, so it's an obvious choice. Though, it's “one of those plants that does not play nicely with others,” Bolivar says.

Mint needs to be planted in a separate pot which can then be situated in a garden bed to keep it from spreading, she says, but the pot should have a few holes and be made of plastic, ceramic, galvanized steel or any other plant-safe material.

**'If you see plants that
make you
feel good,
just get them.'**

— Lorrie Bolivar,
Nursery Net plant broker

After I asked Bolivar about many of the guidelines I assumed I needed to follow, she reassured me that my inexperience is not an issue.

“If you see plants that make you feel good, just get them,” Bolivar says. “Just try it, don't be afraid. You'll develop a relationship with that plant and it'll be really fun. If you want to assign a bunch of rules to it, then it becomes more intimidating.”

As of now, my lineup includes the magnificent heart perennial and mojito mint, though I do plan to add both perennial and annual plants as summer approaches, giving me more time to scour the city for shade plants.

'TREES AND PLANTS ALWAYS
LOOK LIKE THE PEOPLE THEY
LIVE WITH, SOMEHOW.'
— ZORA NEALE HURSTON



Digging In

PREPARE FOR YOUR SUMMER
GARDEN WITH OUR UPDATED
PLANTING GUIDE

By Eliza Aronson

Photo by Todd Cooper

As daffodils and crocuses are in bloom, the sun sets at 7 pm, and it was finally warm enough to wear shorts this past weekend. Spring is here, so it's time to start planning your summer garden.

Eugene Weekly has updated our annual planting guide, thanks to more locally focused climate-based information from Oregon State University's Extension Service program.

It's a great idea to get your soil tested if you haven't worked in it recently, says Erica Chernoh of OSU Extension Lane County, who oversees the Lane County Master Gardener program.

"Even just getting a basic soil pH test can help people know whether or not the pH is within the correct range for growing vegetables," Chernoh tells *EW*. "Or if they want to plant blueberries and need to acidify their soil then they can gauge that as well."

OSU Extension also recommends assessing the tilth of your soil. "Good tilth means a soil is easy to dig in, accepts and stores water readily, has good drainage, and makes a good seed bed," it states on its website. "To maintain or improve soil tilth, add fresh or composted organic matter each year."

According to OSU, you can start planting your broccoli, carrots, parsley and onions in March.

If you don't have the space for a full-blown garden, Chernoh wants to remind people that lots of things can be grown in containers. "You can grow tomatoes, great tomatoes, in a five-gallon bucket," she says. "There are a lot of herbs that can be grown in small one-gallon containers or on apartment balconies and things like that."

In addition to vegetables and herbs, you can legally grow up to four cannabis plants at home if you're over 21 and your house isn't within 1,000 feet of a school. According to SunMed Growers, planting time can start anywhere from late April to early June, but cannabis ideally needs 12 or more hours of sunlight and 70-85 degree weather — meaning more like early June for western Oregon growers. SunMed Growers also states that growing in pots allows for you to bring the plant inside if there are cold or rainy spells. And bringing it back to soil tests, the optimal pH for cannabis is around 5.8-6.5.

You can find more information about setting up your garden at [Extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9027-growing-your-own](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9027-growing-your-own).

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JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART

Artist Talk | Alison Saar Uproot

Wednesday, April 3 | 6 p.m.
Location: PLC 180
reception to follow at the JSMA



Alison Saar is a Los Angeles based sculptor, mixed-media, and installation artist. Her artwork focuses on the African diaspora and Black female identity and is influenced by African, Caribbean, and Latin American folk art and spirituality. She will discuss her recent works, three of which are on view at the JSMA in *Strange Weather: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation and My Body, My Choice? Art and Reproductive Justice*. **Grow'd** (2019), a life-sized, bronze statue depicting the literary character Topsy from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, monumentalizes the intersecting histories of cotton, slavery, and identity in the United States. **Uproot** and **Plucked** (2023), a pair of double-sided paintings on vintage cotton-picking bags, respond to the 2022 overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alison Saar's visit is sponsored by Jordan D. Schnitzer.



RSVP online at
<https://jsma.uoregon.edu/artist-talk-alison-saar>

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Alison Saar (American, b. 1956), **Uproot**, 2022, charcoal and acrylic on vintage patched cotton-picking bag and found hooks and chain, 108 x 27 x 4 inches. © Alison Saar. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer



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what's happening

If you're an old-head hippie, still fighting the good fight against the establishment, then you know all about Ken Kesey and his Merry Pranksters and their electric Kool-Aid bus trip across America. Today, the apostles of Kesey memorialize the psychedelic crusade across America on the 60th anniversary of the group's famous 1964 summer trip with a performance by **THE GARCIA PROJECT AT WOW HALL**. Kesey's court of jesters, the Merry Pranksters — aboard their psychedelically painted 1939 International Harvester school bus "Furthur" — once drove coast to coast handing out LSD and proselytizing about the imminent hippie movement. For two nights, March 22 and 23, ticket holders can experience the trip as it was, complete with many of the original pranksters — speaking, performing and even (you guessed it) being pranksters. No good trip is complete without a psychedelic soundtrack. Thus on both nights, not a Grateful Dead Tribute band, The Garcia Project will be performing a full and classic Jerry Garcia Band setlist dating all the way from the early '60s to the late '90s. For fans of Garcia who never had the chance to hear them live, or for someone wanting to revisit a classic show — The Garcia Project delivers.

Merry Pranksters 60th Anniversary Celebration with The Garcia Project is 7 pm, March 22 and 23 at WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. Tickets are \$25 per night for all ages and \$20 for a VIP two-night deal at WowHall.org. — Bentley Freeman

THURSDAY

MARCH 21

ART/CRAFT

Young Artist Studio, 4-6pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. FREE.

CIVICS

Ln. County Public Safety Coordinating Council, 3-5pm, Ln. County Parole & Probation, 2699 Roosevelt Blvd.

COMEDY

Wild Ones: Open Mic, 8-10pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. FREE.

FILM

Encircle Films: *Into the Canyon*, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$9-12.

Hunger Games, 7pm, White-side Theatre, 461 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

Rad (Remastered 2024), 7:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$9.50-12.50.

FOOD/DRINK

8th Annual March Madness IPA Blind Taste-Off, 11:30am-10pm thru. Apr. 7, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd., & beergarden 777 W. 6th Ave.

Thursday Tasting: Falling Sky Brewing, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE samples.

GATHERINGS

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 10-11:30am, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Transportation Planning Committee Meeting, 10am-noon. Online at LCOG.org.

Flourish Networking Eugene, 1-2:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$30 per month.

Psychedelic Parents Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$10 sliding scale.

Codependents Anonymous (CoDA) Meeting, 7-8pm

today & Thu., Mar. 28, Wellsprings Friends School, 3590 W. 18th Ave. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Preschool Storytime, 10:15-10:45am today & Thu., Mar. 28, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

STEAM Stories: Dinosaurs, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

(B.O.G.S.) Speaker Series w/ Rich Ahrens — Birds of Hawaii, 9-11am, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. \$3 don.

Retired Senior Providers of Ln. County, 2pm, Sheldon Oaks Retirement, 2525 Cal Young Rd. FREE.

MUSIC

Jazz Lab, 6pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Jimmy Mac's Overtime Bar & Grill, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Timothy Patrick, acoustic-variety-humor, 6pm, Driftwood Shores, 88416 1st Ave., Florence. \$20.

Frankie Bronco, singer-songwriter, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Gregarius, Juliet, Carol & Joy, Americana-covers-originals, 7pm, 255 Madison St. \$5.

Damien Masterson Jazz Ensemble w/ Robert Bohall, Eli Hansen & Nik Barber, Jazz-Latin-African styles, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Ehud Asherie plays Harry Warren, music of legendary Hollywood composer, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$9.50-33.

Max Boogie Overdrive, Children of Atom & River City Ruin, hard rock-punk, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

Funk Jam, 9pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

LabRats, Natsukashii Soul & Fracas, funk-jazz, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$7.

Reverend Horton Heat w/ Dale Watson, Jason D Williams, psychobilly, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$30.

NIGHTLIFE

Beginners Board Game Night, 5pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Funagain Games Game Parlor, 2711 Oak St. FREE.

Karaoke For Cash, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Falling Sky Brewpub, 1334 Oak Alley. \$5.

Trivia Night w/ Brett, 6:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Forest, 7pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke Thursdays, 7:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Ninkasi Run Club, 5:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Eugene Garden Club Plant Nerd Night, 6-8pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Men's Basketball: Oregon at South Carolina, 1pm. More info at GoDucks.com.

THEATER

Neko Case, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$59.

FRIDAY

MARCH 22

ART/CRAFT

Gem Faire, noon-6pm today, 10am-6pm Sat., Mar. 23 & 10am-5pm Sun., Mar. 24, Ln. Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave. \$7 gen. adm.

COMEDY

All Ducked Up: A Comedy Open Mic, 5pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. FREE.

Comedy Show, 7pm, Sawdust Theatre, 120 No. Adams, Coquille. \$12-15.

GATHERINGS

Living Estate Sale, 10am-3pm thru. Mar. 24, Darla Hewitt, 2969 Brett Lp.

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

HEALTH

Natural Grocers Bloodworks NW Blood Drive, 10am-4pm, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Kids: Book Talk, 4pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Djembe Drumming For Beginners, 5pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$10.

MUSIC

John Shipe, autobiography-narrative-variety, 6pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Frankie Bronco, singer-songwriter, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Goldvein, pop, 7pm, 255 Madison St. \$5.

Merry Pranksters 60th Anniversary Celebration w/ The Garcia Project, classic Jerry Garcia Band setlist, 7pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$25.

Uncle Stumbles, late '60s rock, 7pm, Swallowtail Spirits, 111 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Alice DiMichele & Andy Casad, Americana-folk-singer-songwriter, 7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$20.

Idit Shner & the Jack Radsliff Trio w/ Patrick Goličnik & Michael Raynor, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Ashley McBryde: The Devil I Know Tour w/ Kasey Tyn dall, country, 8pm, Hult Ctr.

The Blu Aces, rock-blues, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$7.

The SURVIVORS Band, rock, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

Uada w/ Abigail Williams, black metal, 8pm, John

Henry's, 881 Willamette St. \$18-22.

Heartwells, Empire & Security in Numbers, West Coast punk, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

Meow Mix, electronic-hip-hop-dance, 9pm, The Cooler Bar, 20 Centennial Lp. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE

AWAKEN: An Invocation of Spring, 9pm, Old Nick's, 221 Washington St. \$15.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon vs. Arizona State, 5pm today, 2pm Sat., Mar. 23 & noon Sun., Mar. 24, Jane Sanders Stadium. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

College Baseball: Oregon vs. Arizona, 5:05pm today, 2:05pm Sat., Mar. 23 & 12:05pm Sun., Mar. 24, PK Park. Tickets at GoDucks.com

TEENS

Teen Stories, 4pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

THEATER

Sleeping Groovy, 7pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd. \$15-20.

Sealed for Freshness, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

SATURDAY

MARCH 23

ART/CRAFT

Yachats Arts & Crafts Fair, 10am-4pm today & Sun., Mar. 24, Yachats Commons, 441 US-101, Yachats.

Paint & Sip — Wildflower Field, 3-5pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

Jello Art Show, 5-8pm, Maude Kerns Art Ctr., 1910 E. 15th Ave. \$3-5.

FESTIVAL

Surftides Hotel Festival of Illusions, all day, Lincoln City Cultural Ctr., 540 NE. Hwy. 101, Lincoln City. Sliding scale.

FILM

The Metropolitan Opera: Romeo et Juliette, 9:45am, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$18-26.

FARMERS MARKETS

Winter Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

FOOD/DRINK

Orval Day, 1-3pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. Glassware \$3 w/ purchase of bottle.

GATHERINGS

Spring Break, all day thru. Mar. 30, Spfd. Public Library, 225 5th St., Spfd. More info at WhereMinds-Grow.org.

Spring into Science Membership Discount, all day thru., Mar. 31, Museum of Natural & Cultural History,

From the start — cutting her teeth singing in bars in her native Arkansas and throughout the Deep South — country music star **ASHLEY MCBRYDE** has maintained what a reviewer for *The Tennessean* notes is a “deeply entrenched, unflinching, blue-collar honesty as her trademark brand.” She’s now a member of the Grand Ole Opry, but the brand remains, and the incredibly talented singer-songwriter makes a stop in Eugene March 22 for “The Devil I Know Tour” at the Hult Center’s Silva Concert Hall. The tour is in support of McBryde’s 2023 album of the same name, her fourth studio album. That album includes hit singles “The Devil I Know,” “Single at the Same Time,” “Learned to Lie” and “Light On in the Kitchen,” a beautiful song that celebrates girl empowerment from the eyes of a mother. These songs don’t disappoint. The authentic lyrics — the music website *SPIN* calls McBryde “the genre’s smartest lyricist” — speak from the heart and with both feet planted firmly on the ground. This should be a fun concert.

Ashley McBryde, with guest Kasey Tyn dall, plays 8 pm Friday, March 22, at the Hult Center. Tickets start at \$35 at HultCenter.org. — Dan Buckwalter



Photo by Katie Kousser

1680 E. 15th Ave. 20% of memberships.

Anton Chekhov: Genius Architect of the Modern Short Story, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-135.

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Florence Indoor Yard Sale, 10am-4pm, Florence Events Ctr., 715 Quince St., Florence. \$2.

Queer Community Day, 11am-3pm, Queer Resource Ctr., 1185 Arthur St. FREE.

TransParent Group, 11am-noon, Theo's Coffee House, 199 W. 8th Ave., #1. FREE.

Trans Community Support Group, 3:30-5pm, Email info@transponder.community for the link. FREE.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical Services, 9-11am, Washington Jefferson Park, Washington St. & W. 5th Ave. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, 11-11:30am & 11:45am-12:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Detox 101 w/ Yaakov Levine, FNTP, 11am-noon, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS

The Art of Comics & You, 1-4pm, MECCA: Materials Exchange Ctr. for Community Arts, 449 Willamette. FREE.

MUSIC

Epiphonic, rock-songwriter-poet, 6pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Rob Tobias, singer-songwriter, 6pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. N/C.

Gerry Rempels Jazz Syndicate, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Madeleine Peyroux, jazz, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$25.50-57.

Nathaniel Talbot & Lincoln Crockett, guitarist-singer, 7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$14.50.

Oregon Mozart Players — *Breathe*, 7:30pm, Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E. 15th Ave. \$5.

Real Gone Trio, psychobilly-rockabilly, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

The SURVIVORS Band, rock, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

TJ Wong w/ Johnny Wheels, duo, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$10.

Left On Read, Mothra & Gentlebeing, rock, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$8.

Molasses & Inner Limits, neo-soul-funk-jazz, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$10.

Skating Polly w/ Buggy + Grrrlband & Ex Wife, rock, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$12-15.

NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Play Petanque, 10am-1pm, Striker Park, Grand Cayman Dr. FREE.

THEATER

Sleeping Groovy, 3pm & 7pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd. \$15-20.

Sealed for Freshness, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

SUNDAY

MARCH 24

COMEDY

Come On In! Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Barn Light Bar, 924 Willamette. FREE.

FILM

National Theatre: The Motive & the Cue, 1:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19.

GATHERINGS

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, LGBTQ+ friendly, 5:30pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Make Your Own Herbal Oil & Salve, 9am-noon, Rooted Remedies Apothecary, 271 W. 8th Ave. \$75.

Learning to Confront & Heal Trauma, 2-3:30pm, Ctr. For Spiritual Living, 390 Vernal St. \$50-75.

Nutrition & Lifestyle Medicine Classes, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

MUSIC

Jazz at the Ciderhouse, 4pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. N/C. EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Shamrock Jam, 6pm, The Pint Pot Pub, 195 E. 17th Ave. N/C.

Abhorra, aggressive-black-metal, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette St. \$10.

Life In Vacuum, aggressive-rock, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$10-15.

NIGHTLIFE

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. FREE.

Open Mic, 5:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

The Muse Collective, 8:30pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$9.

RECREATION

Yoga + Beer, 10:30-11:30am, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. \$25.

SPIRITUAL

Reflecting Spiritual Qualities, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr., 1458 Alder St. FREE.

THEATER

Sealed for Freshness, 2-4:30pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

Sleeping Groovy, 3pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd. \$15-20.

MONDAY

MARCH 25

ART/CRAFT

Developing Glazes, 5:30-7:30pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$50.

COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic w/ Seth Milstein, 8pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

GATHERINGS

Low-Sensory Inclusive Outreach Day, 10am-4pm, Wil-

lamette Heritage Ctr., 1313 Mill St., NE. Salem. \$6-10.

NIGHTLIFE

Beats & Boards, 6:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Open Mic, 6:30pm, Houndstooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Spring Break History Camp, 9am-2pm, Shelton McMurry Johnson House, 303 Willamette. \$135.

SPIRITUAL

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St. FREE.

TUESDAY

MARCH 26

ART/CRAFT

Lots of Pots, 5:30-7:30pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$75.

CIVICS

NRCS Local Workgroup Meeting, 3pm, Upper Willamette SWCD, 3291 W. 1st Ave.

FILM

National Theatre: The Motive & the Cue, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19.

GATHERINGS

QTBIPOC Group, 6-7pm, Email info@transponder.community for the link. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Storytime, 10:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Toddler Storytime, 11am & 11:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Kids: Nature Prints, 1-5pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Be Writing!, 9:15-11:45am, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$3.

Releasing w/ Writing, 11:30am-12:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$5-15.

Sips of Happiness Mindfulness, 1-2pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$15.

Twens: Polymer Clay, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Lasting Happiness From Within, 6-7:30pm, Mahonia Bldg., 120 Shelton McMurry Blvd. \$10.

LITERARY ARTS

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

MUSIC

Disney Princess Concert, 7pm, Hult Ctr. \$25-\$169.50

Roosters Blues Jam, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Eugene Chess Club Night, 6pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. FREE.

Trivia Night, 7pm, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Tuesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Spring Break History Camp, 9am-2pm, Shelton McMurry Johnson House, 303 Willamette. \$135.

Play Petanque, 10am-1pm, Striker Park, Grand Cayman Dr. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE

Salsa Dancing, 7pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$5.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon at Cal State Fullerton, 6pm. More info at GoDucks.com.

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 27

ART/CRAFT

Developing Glazes, 5:30-7:30pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$50.

FILM

Florence Foster Jenkins — Movie Group, 1-3pm, Wilamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

The Metropolitan Opera: Romeo et Juliette, 1pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$18-26.

Marcel the Shell w/ the Shoes On, 6:30pm, Wildish Theatre, 630 Main St., Spfd. FREE.

Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

GATHERINGS

Vietnam War Commemoration Pinning Ceremony, 10am-2pm, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Frear St., Roseburg.

Psychedelic Integration Circle, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$5-20.

We/Us/Ours, 6-8pm, Public House, 4606, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Plant Meditation Circle, 6:15-7:45pm, Rooted Remedies Apothecary, 271 W. 8th Ave. \$10 sug. don.

KIDS/FAMILY

Family Day, 10am-4pm, Willamette Heritage Ctr., 1313 Mill St., NE. Salem. \$6-10.

Kids: LEGO Birds & Bugs, 10am-2pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS

Drop-in Book Group, 11am, Sheldon Branch Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

MUSIC

Hank & Bill Shreve, blues-rock-funk-soul, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

The Joanne Broh Trio, jazz, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

The Tony Furtado Acoustic Trio ft. Tony Furtado, Luke Price & Simon Chrisman, American roots, 7:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. \$28.50.

NIGHTLIFE

Open Mic, 5pm, Mulligan's Pub, 2841 Willamette. FREE.

Local Food Trivia, 6pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$10 sug. don.

March Madness Trivia Tourney, 6pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave. FREE.

Bingo Wednesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Caught in the Whit Karaoke, 7pm, 255 Madison St. FREE.

Shelbyville Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Spring Break History Camp, 9am-2pm, Shelton McMurry Johnson House, 303 Willamette. \$135.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Baseball: Oregon vs. Seattle, 5:05pm today & Thu., Mar. 28, PK Park. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

SPIRITUAL

Eugene Sound Bath w/ PSILO Temple, 6:30-9pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. FREE for members, \$25 don. for non members.

TEENS

Animanga Club, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

THURSDAY

MARCH 28

ART/CRAFT

Lots of Pots, 5:30-7:30pm, Umpqua Valley Arts Association, 1624 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg. \$75.

FILM

A League of Their Own, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$5-8.

Horrible Bingo: *Hello Mary Lou*, 7-9pm, Arthouse, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.



Photo courtesy of Oregon Mozart Players

On March 23, the Oregon Mozart Players will remember Holly Spencer — her energy and passion — with a program called *BREATHE* in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church. Spencer was a tireless longtime advocate for youth in music who died in January. The first piece in the program is, indeed, called *Breathe*, composed by Carlos Simon in 1986 and which features members of the Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestra playing alongside the Oregon Mozart Players. Spencer served on the board of EYSO and even did a stint as its executive director. She also founded and directed for seven years the Cadenza Clarinet Choir for middle and high school students as well as private teaching. If that wasn't enough, Spencer even did administrative work and publications editing at The Resource Innovation Group in Eugene. In addition to honoring Spencer, OMP will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra* with Alice Blakenship on violin (pictured) and Arnaud Ghillebaert on viola. The program ends with Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A Major.

The Oregon Mozart Players perform the program Breathe 7:30 pm Saturday, March 23, at Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E. 15th Avenue. Ticket information is at OregonMozartPlayers.org. — Dan Buckwalter

2024: The Year of Jell-O

PREGAME THE ANNUAL JELL-O ART SHOW WITH JELL-O SHOTS INSPIRED BY EUGENE'S FINEST JELL-O ARTISTS

By Emerson Brady

Every December my dear friend Isaac and I make a list of trend predictions for the upcoming year. We argue over whether bobs are making a comeback and if truffle fries are finally #out. One thing we know for sure is that Jell-O is sweeping the nation yet again.

Consider this your warning: It's a Jell-O world now and we're just living in it.

For some Jell-O isn't simply a trend; it's an art form, and Eugene's annual Jell-O Art Show is the Louvre of Jell-O art. Established in 1988 by feminist performance group The Radar Angels, the annual Jell-O Art Show provides a space for Jell-O artists of every skill level to showcase their ooey-goey art.

This year's show takes place at Maude Kerns Art Center and begins at 5 pm Saturday, March 23. Anyone can submit a piece so long as they can contribute \$3 for their display. And if it wasn't already obvious, any art submitted must be made of Jell-O.

"The thing I love about Jell-O art is that there's no critical structure," says Diane McWhorter, aka *The Jell-O Queen*. One of the first Jell-O Art Show artists, she adds, "There's no bad Jell-O art. You know, there's no winner; just self expression."

McWhorter got into Jell-O art after her Radar Angel friend and future Jell-O Lady in Waiting Indira Stern-Hayworth convinced her to submit a piece for the first show.

She recalls her first piece was a dried Jell-O Barbie with a slug on its leg. "I was listening to people talk about it, and they were like, 'I can't even believe a woman would make that,'" she says of the Jell-O art. She says, "It made me realize that, wait, art is super fun — and Jell-O allows me to be an artist."

Stern-Hayworth and the rest of the Radar Angels crowned McWhorter Jell-O queen in 2012 after a broken heel earlier that year almost kept her from submitting a piece.

visual arts



DIANE MCWHORTER, THE JELL-O QUEEN, AND INDIRA STERN-HAYWORTH, HER LADY-IN-WAITING, POSE WITH MCWHORTER'S DRIED JELL-O CREATIONS.



ISAAC DISPLAYS THE BLUE CURAÇO 'UNDER THE SEA' JELL-O SHOT.

Photos by Todd Cooper

Photos by John Ofstedal

"It was a no-brainer," Stern-Hayworth says. "There is just nobody else who could be Jell-O queen."

A few years later in 2016, David Pibbs was knighted by McWhorter after participating in the show for 20 years.

"I just love entering an art show alongside 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds," Pibbs says.

Both McWhorter and Pibbs' houses resemble dried Jell-O art museums. Vases full of Jell-O flowers line her kitchen table, and brightly colored Jell-O crowns sit on the piano. Jell-O stars and mustaches live on Pibbs' tables. McWhorter points across the hall and says, "That's my actual Jell-O art room but it's too crowded in there."

The kitchen is what one might refer to as a Jell-O studio. Counters are littered with Pyrex bowls of thick, brightly colored Jell-O that hardens at room temperature. McWhorter lets it sit on her counter, tending to it periodically until it's the right texture to mold it into whatever shape she pleases.

This year she says her piece is going to resemble a koi fish bowl with various plants and fish "somehow suspended" in the bowl. Pibbs is also inspired by fish this year and is making a goldfish aquarium made up entirely out of wet

Jell-O, which is what Jell-O artists call the consistency it is after being refrigerated.

"It may or may not work," McWhorter says. "You're always working up to the last minute."

Feeling inspired after meeting Jell-O royalty McWhorter and Pibbs, I decided to enlist Jell-O trendspotter Isaac to help me create a Jell-O concoction of my own. Except instead of an elaborate art piece, we decided to create the perfect Jell-O shot to pregame the Jell-O Art Show.

Both the Jell-O queen and knight were influenced by fish (adding marine life to my 'ins list' as we speak), which means an oceanic-themed Jell-O shot was in order. Two envelopes of gelatin, a half cup of Blue curaço and three-quarters cup of tequila are the driving forces in our 'Under the Sea' Jell-O shot.

First you're going to pour two-thirds cup of sweetened lime juice, a third cup of water and gelatin in a saucepan and let it soak for a few minutes. Then turn the heat to low until the gelatin is dissolved (should be about five minutes). While the gelatin is dissolving, take out your plastic shot glasses and put a Swedish Fish in every cup. Remove the saucepan from heat and stir in the liquor. It may melt the fish but it looks cool. Finally, pour the Jell-O into the shot glasses and let it refrigerate for several hours.

After the Jell-O is solidified feel free to decorate with graham cracker 'sand' and a little beach umbrella or swim goggles.

"If you don't like the taste you can always swallow it whole," Isaac says. "That's half the fun."

The Jell-O Art Show is 5 pm Saturday, March 23 at Maude Kerns Art Center 1910 E. 15. The show will feature a performance from the "Inimitable Radar Angels" at 7 pm. There is a suggested donation of \$3. If you wish to have your art featured in the show you can drop your piece off at Maude Kerns between 3-4:30 pm. To learn more about the Jell-O Art Show and how to submit a piece go to Mkartcenter.org/jello.html

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Author Susan Sontag defined “mad people” as those who “stand alone and burn.” She said she was drawn to them because they inspired her to do the same. What do you think she meant by the descriptor “stand alone and burn”? I suspect she was referring to strong-willed people devoted to cultivating the most passionate version of themselves, always in alignment with their deepest longings. She meant those who are willing to accept the consequences of such devotion, even if it means being misunderstood or alone. The coming weeks will be an interesting and educational time for you to experiment with being such a person.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): In the 1930s, Taurus-born Rita Levi-Montalcini was a promising researcher in neurobiology at the University of Turin in Italy. But when fascist dictator Benito Mussolini imposed new laws that forbade Jews from holding university jobs, she was fired. Undaunted, she created a laboratory in her bedroom and continued her work. There she laid the foundations for discoveries that ultimately led to her winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. I foresee you summoning comparable determination and resilience in the coming weeks, Taurus.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Religious scholar Karl Barth (1886-1968) wrote, “There will be no song on our lips if there be no anguish in our hearts.” To that perverse oversimplification, I reply: “Rubbish. Twaddle. Bunk. Hooey.” I’m appalled by his insinuation that pain is the driving force for all of our lyrical self-revelations. Case in point: you in the coming weeks. I trust there will be a steady flow of songs in your heart and on your lips because you will be in such intimate alignment with your life’s master plan.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): “It is not easy to be crafty and winsome at the same time, and few accomplish it after the age of six,” wrote Cancerian author John W. Gardner. But I would add that more adult Crabs accomplish this feat than any other sign of the zodiac. I’ll furthermore suggest that during the next six weeks, many of you will do it quite well. My prediction: You will blend lovability and strategic shrewdness to generate unprecedented effectiveness. (How could anyone resist you?)

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Staring at flames had benefits for our primitive ancestors. As they sat around campfires and focused on the steady burn, they were essentially practicing a kind of meditation. Doing so enhanced their ability to regulate their attention, thereby strengthening their working memory and developing a greater capacity to make long-range plans. What does this have to do with you? As a fire sign, you have a special talent for harnessing the power of fire to serve you. In the coming weeks, that will be even more profoundly true than usual. If you can do so safely, I encourage you to spend quality time gazing into flames. I also hope you will super-nurture the radiant fire that glows within you. (More info: tinyurl.com/GoodFlames)

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Physicist Victor Weisskopf told us, “What’s beautiful in science is the same thing that’s beautiful in Beethoven. There’s a fog of events and suddenly you see a connection. It connects things that were always in you that were never put together before.” I’m expecting there to be a wealth of these aha moments for you in the coming weeks, Virgo. Hidden patterns will become visible. Missing links will appear. Secret agendas will emerge. The real stories beneath the superficial stories will materialize. Be receptive and alert!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Jungian psychoanalyst and folklore expert Clarissa Pinkola Estés celebrates the power of inquiry. She says that “asking the proper question is the central action of transformation,” both in fairy tales and in psychotherapy. To identify what changes will heal you, you must be curious to uncover truths that you don’t know yet. “Questions are the keys that cause the secret doors of the psyche to swing open,” says Estes. I bring this to your attention, Libra, because now is prime time for you to formulate the Fantastically Magically Catalytic Questions.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): In April 1933, Scorpio-born African American singer Ethel Waters was in a “private hell.” Her career was at an impasse and her marriage was falling apart. In the depths of despondency, she was invited to sing a new song, “Stormy Weather,” at New York City’s famous Cotton Club. It was a turning point. She later wrote, “I was singing the story of my misery and confusion, of the misunderstandings in my life I couldn’t straighten out, the story of the wrongs and outrages done to me by people I had loved and trusted.” The audience was thrilled by her performance and called her back for 12 encores. Soon thereafter, musical opportunities poured in and her career blossomed. I foresee a parallel event in your life, Scorpio. Maybe not quite so dramatic, but still, quite redemptive.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): I love to see you enjoy yourself. I get a vicarious thrill as I observe you pursuing pleasures that other people are too inhibited or timid to dare. It’s healing for me to witness you unleash your unapologetic enthusiasm for being alive in an amazing body that’s blessed with the miracle of consciousness. And now I’m going to be a cheerleader for your efforts to wander even further into the frontiers of bliss and joy and gratification. I will urge you to embark on a quest of novel forms of rapture and exultation. I’ll prod you to at least temporarily set aside habitual sources of excitement so you’ll have room to welcome as-yet unfamiliar sources.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Capricorn poet John O’Donahue suggested that a river’s behavior is worthy of our emulation. He said the river’s life is “surrendered to the pilgrimage.” It’s “seldom pushing or straining, keeping itself to itself everywhere all along its flow.” Can you imagine yourself doing that, Capricorn? Now is an excellent time to do so. O’Donahue rhapsodized that the river is “at one with its sinuous mind, an utter rhythm, never awkward,” and that “it continues to swirl through all unlikeliness with elegance: a ceaseless traverse of presence soothing on each side, sounding out its journey, raising up a buried music.” Be like that river, dear Capricorn!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): “Is life not a thousand times too short for us to bore ourselves?” wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. In response to that sentiment, I say, “Amen!” and “Hallelujah!” Even if you will live till age 99, that’s still too brief a time to indulge in an excess of dull activities that activate just a small part of your intelligence. To be clear, I don’t think it’s possible to be perfect in avoiding boredom. But for most of us, there’s a lot we can do to minimize numbing tedium and energy-draining apathy. I mention this, Aquarius, because the coming weeks will be a time when you will have extra power to make your life as interesting as possible for the long run.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): I know of four different governmental organizations that have estimated the dollar value of a single human life. The average of their figures is \$7.75 million. So let’s say, for argument’s sake, that you are personally worth that much. Does it change the way you think about your destiny? Are you inspired to upgrade your sense of yourself as a precious treasure? Or is the idea of putting a price on your merit uninteresting, even unappealing? Whatever your reaction is, I hope it prods you to take a revised inventory of your worth, however you measure it. It’s a good time to get a clear and precise evaluation of the gift that is your life. (Quote from Julia Cameron: “Treating yourself like a precious object makes you strong.”)

Homework: Send brief descriptions of your top three vices and top three virtues. FreeWillAstrology.com.

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CHECK OUT EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES AND DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES.

SAVAGE LOVE

BY DAN SAVAGE



I’m having a weird reaction to someone I’m involved with. I find myself wanting to punish him for the slightest transgressions and scold him or give him the silent treatment until he apologizes. The poor guy hasn’t done anything very wrong — nothing wrong wrong — he’s just failed to meet my unreasonably high expectations for him. To make matters worse, we seem to have fallen into some sort of roleplay, verbally at least, where I order him around. He seems to want me to punish him and give him orders and I’m doing both, but I’ve never been a Dom or had a sub or whatever it is we’re doing. Honestly, I’m confused about what we’re doing but he seems to be inviting it somehow. How do I navigate this?

— **Problems Understanding Nuances In Situationship Here**

“This situation reminds Me of the kinkster classic *Secretary*,” says The Funny Dom. “It’s a fascinating look at a Dom and a sub who don’t fully understand their identities or how to pursue the dynamic functionally. It’s sweet and hot watching Maggie Gyllenhaal and James Spader fall into a problematic spanking scene, but in real life we know better.”

The Funny Dom is the pen name of a 44-year-old Daddy based in Melbourne, Australia. A long-time kink practitioner and educator, The Funny Dom has been “holding light-hearted (but stern!) space” for Doms, subs, and switches online since the start of the pandemic.

“It sounds like these two have developed a kind of Dom/sub dynamic,” TheFriendlyDom says. “PUNISH should think of it like a particular kind of dance they’re both loosely following. And while it’s all well and good for her to say he’s inviting it, it takes two to tango.”

Maybe your boyfriend already knew he was a sub when you met and he’s subtly training you to dominate him — by rewarding the punishing behaviors he wants to see from you — I’m guessing your boyfriend is just as confused about the dynamic you’ve stumbled into as a couple. But since you seem to enjoy punishing him, PUNISH, and since your boyfriend seems to enjoy being punished by you, this sounds less like a problem and more like the beginning of a beautiful (and very hot) relationship.

“It’s obvious from the way PUNISH and her boyfriend respond to each other’s behavior that D/s resonate for both of them,” TheFunnyDom adds. “They have a real opportunity here to explore a big juicy part of their identities. But to take those steps, they need to have a conversation about the moves they’ve both been pulling — and what those moves mean to them — and then discuss whether they’d like to pursue this dynamic further. And if so, how can they pursue it mindfully?”

One of you needs to say, “Hey, what are we doing here?,” and since you’re the one who wrote to me first, PUNISH, I think you’re the one who needs to say it. And if you’re concerned about where this is heading — if you’re worried about this dynamic escalating in ways that make you feel uncomfortable about your actions — identifying what it is you’re doing and will help contain it. Right now, PUNISH, you’re punishing your boyfriend and *kindasorta* hoping he likes it as much as you think he does; once you’ve talked about it, you’ll be able to punish your boyfriend confident that likes what you’re doing. And remember: this conversation isn’t just about identifying your boyfriend’s limits as a sub, PUNISH, it’s also about identifying your limits as a Dom.

“To start the conversation they can watch a decent kinky movie together,” The Funny Dom says, “something like *Secretary* or *Love & Leashes* — a much less problematic and even sweet depiction of a male sub dynamic — and then talk about what they liked, what they didn’t like, and what, if anything, reflected what’s happening between them. They can also grab a how-to book — and there are many — and look for a kink class or workshop to attend together and independently.”

One how-to book you might want to pick up and read with the boyfriend: *The Funny Dom’s Guide to Kink* (Vol. 1 and Vol. 2), which is available now.

“PUNISH and her boyfriend — really, all couples who interested in kink — need to remember that kink is a big, big, hot, transformative, messy, wonderful adventure,” The Funny Dom notes, “and it shouldn’t be done in a non-conscious vacuum, folks.”

In other words, PUNISH, you gotta talk about it. Or as we like to say here at Savage Love, Inc., *you gotta use your words*.

Cis-het dude here in my 30s. I’ve had to spend several multi-month periods away from my wife over the last couple years for work. During the last long separation, I started writing letters — long letters, horny letters, emotional letters and lots of smut. I sent notebooks filled with horny letters and erotic short stories, drawings and elaborate choose-your-own-adventure-style pieces. I let her in on some of my kinks. (I know, Dan: I should’ve done this when we first started dating, but I wasn’t listening to the Lovecast then.) As it turns out, she’s pretty vanilla and she asked me to pull back on the kink. Since the letters and stories were gifts, I obliged. I’m not great at talking about my feelings and desires, but I can write them down. Not everything was horny — I sent love letters, not just lust letters — but I never get much of a response. For example, I wrote her an “ice cream menu” with codes aligning with different themes and kinks. The idea was that she could pick what she wanted to read in future notebooks. I got a couple requests, but she never used the menu system, let alone asked for “lavender honeycomb” or “mint chocolate chip” options. (Yes, vanilla was also on the menu!)

I guess the issue here is that I feel like I’m not getting much back. Are these projects worth pursuing? Should I put my kinks (mostly subby stuff with me as the sub) back in my stories or does that come across like I’m trying to pressure her? We’re going to be back together full time for the next couple years. I love the heck out of this woman — that’s why I married her — but it doesn’t feel good to be the unreciprocated lust letter writer.

— **Boy Overconfidently Oversharing Kink Stories**

“First of all, one cis-het bloke to another, a big bloody well done on the beautiful and creative outlet BOOKS found and explored and here’s to making space for sharing, vulnerability and playful kinky discussions,” The Funny Dom says. “Our fellow cis-het blokes could do with more of this. Unfortunately, I’m thinking BOOKS transformation from a not-very-comfortable-speaking-about-feelings-and-desires guy to something like a coked-up-Aaron-Sorkin-like pen pal may have overwhelmed his partner.”

You say it wasn’t your intent to make your wife feel pressured — not pressured to respond in kind, not pressured to embrace your kinks — but it sounds like she feels pressured, BOOKS, and it sounds like you actually are disappointed she hasn’t responded in kind and embraced your kinks.

“I totally understand that BOOKS is feeling a little underwhelmed by the lack of reciprocity here,” The Funny Dom says. “That’s only human. But he’s gotta remember that no one asked him to cook this five-course meal. Before anyone does something like that for you, you gotta discuss tastes, appetites and menu options before playing chef. Kink-dynamic wise, sending someone smut and possible scenarios for play that place your partner in the Dominant role — without clearly ascertaining whether that’s who they are or what they want — is a form of manipulation you often see in relationships that have been essentially vanilla but now one person wants to explore kink.”

Needless to say, it’s not a recipe for success. So, what can you do?

“BOOKS shouldn’t put the pen down,” The Friendly Dom says, “but he should keep the writing for himself — start an anonymous blog or write for a smut lit erotica type platform — and then, when he’s home, have a face-to-face conversation with his partner how he’s feeling and, most importantly, how she’s feeling and whether she wants to explore any of this at all. And if not, well, BOOKS needs to take that into account before spending the next umpteen years together. Fundamental kink compatibility is not like simply going for different footy team. It’s bloody vital to a functional relationship.” Follow *The Funny Dom* on Instagram and Threads @thefunnydomreturns. *The Funny Dom* is available for one-on-one online coaching sessions with couples and individuals.

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